

**HANSER &
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public relations

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Ms. Renata Hesse
Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

Antitrust is defined, by *Merriam-Webster*, as consisting of laws to protect trade and commerce from unlawful restraints and monopolies or unfair business practices.

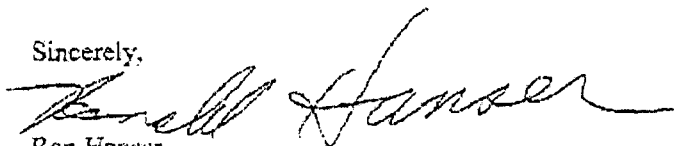
A lawsuit was filed against Microsoft several years ago claiming the company was in violation of the antitrust laws of our country. In other words, the claim is that other companies competing for the same customer base were not able to fairly compete with Microsoft. A lower court ruled that the company would have to be broken up. This ruling did not stand up in the Court of Appeals. But in the process, the Federal government has spent millions of dollars and Microsoft has been forced to spend similar amounts defending its case. Now a settlement has been proposed and agreed to by many of the parties involved in the lawsuit.

Until this case is permanently closed, the biggest loser is the American consumer. Not only have our tax dollars been the source of income for the federal government to fund their case, but it is likely that Microsoft will offset some of the millions they have spent by increasing costs on their products.

I think the only reasonable course of action is to agree to the proposed settlement. It is in the best interest of all parties involved, including the American consumer.

Your efforts are truly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ron Hanser
President

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